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THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Letter dated 28 December 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of the message sent by His Excellency President Abdou Diouf, Chairman of the Sixth Summit Conference of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to the Secretary-General of the organization, on the occasion of the Day of Solidarity with the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could kindly have the text of the present letter and the message circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 42.

(Signed) Kamran NIAZ
Acting Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Message from His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the
Republic of Senegal and Chairman of the Sixth Islamic Summit
Conference, on the occasion of the observance of the Day of
Solidarity with the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Your Excellencies, Ambassadors,

Mr. Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference,

At a time when the whole Islamic Ummah is observing, on this twenty-seventh day of December, the Day of Solidarity with the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, I should like, in my capacity as President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairman of the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference, to address to the ravaged Bosnian people this message of solidarity and hope.

By taking the decision to devote one day a year to the concrete expression of its active solidarity with the martyred people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Organization of the Islamic Conference demonstrates once again its unswerving dedication to the ideals of peace, justice and the brotherhood of all mankind, as well as its firm commitment to the preservation of the national unity and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the context of international legality.

Thus, this laudable initiative accords with the pioneer and driving role that our Organization and its member States have always played with regard to the Bosnian conflict, from the London International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia to the current peace talks in Geneva, through the extraordinary meetings that it has held on the question, both at the ministerial level and at the Summit Conference level. I may add the personal messages which, in my capacity as Chairman of the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference, I addressed to the Heads of State or Government of the permanent members of the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations for more energetic intervention by the universal body responsible for the maintenance and re-establishment of international peace and security.

Effectively relayed by the Contact Group and by the OIC ministerial mission that visited the capitals of the permanent members of the Security Council, all these actions made a decisive contribution to the adoption of the major international measures aimed at forcing the Serbian aggressors to put an end to their senseless policy of "ethnic cleansing" and systematic destruction of the State, territory and rich cultural heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We must, however, recognize, with the rest of the international community, that nothing has changed in the criminal policy of the Serbs vis-à-vis Bosnia and Herzegovina and that, each day that passes, new limits are exceeded in the horror and suffering inflicted on the Bosnian people as a whole, with the Muslims as the main targets.

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The fact that, in the face of the international community's powerlessness to apply the forcible and punitive measures called for, the Serbs of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro feel encouraged in their deadly enterprise and assured of impunity.

Deprived of a clear mandate and adequate human and material resources, UNPROFOR, already powerless, is subjected to all sorts of attacks and obstacles by the Serbs and is threatened with disappearance with the recent announcements of the imminent withdrawal of its largest contingents. It is reduced to keeping a macabre account of the violations of Security Council resolutions, the continuing atrocities and the shells that fall daily on Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially on Sarajevo, the city that symbolizes the universal and perfect cohabitation among different communities.

It is in this context that the Bosnian people, feeling virtually abandoned in distress, violence and deprivation, has, through its President, His Excellency Mr. Alija Izetbegovic, again requested the support of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

For my part, I have already acceded to the request of President Izetbegovic for the holding of an emergency ministerial meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina to consider the concrete measures and diplomatic actions to be taken in addition to those that I have mentioned. The purpose of the meeting would be to take into account the new development represented by the resolution adopted on 20 December 1993 by the United Nations General Assembly, which, inter alia, provides for the lifting of the embargo on arms to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On this Day of Solidarity with the martyred Bosnian people, I urge the Islamic Ummah to make every effort to mobilize further the international community in the fight against injustice, barbarism and mass violations of the law of nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The activities planned to mark the Day must also serve to intensify the international campaign to heighten awareness of the need for increased humanitarian assistance to the sorely tried Bosnian population. The aid provided so far, individually and collectively, including that furnished through the Organization of the Islamic Conference/Islamic Development Bank joint programme for Bosnia and Herzegovina, definitely seems insufficient as the Serbian aggressor escalates the destruction and deprivation and places all kinds of obstacles in the way of aid delivery.

Beyond this important humanitarian aspect, I also see in the Day of Solidarity an eminently political dimension, stemming from the refusal of OIC and its member States to accept the Serbian fait accompli in Bosnia and Herzegovina, namely, the denial of peace and justice.

I should therefore like to urge that we all strive unremittingly for:

- Implementation of the measures and resolutions already adopted by the international community, in particular the total embargo against Serbia and Montenegro and the filing of the dossier for the trial of

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the perpetrators of serious human rights violations committed in the former Yugoslavia, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

- Adoption of new and more stringent measures against the aggressor, while allowing Bosnia and Herzegovina, the victim, to defend itself, individually and collectively.

The Bosnian people demands peace and justice!

It continues to be subjected to physical and moral violence! It is hungry! It is cold!

Peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you.

Abdou DIOUF
